

To the Federal Communications Commission:

It has recently come to our attention that Pappas Telecasting Company has offered to donate \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas of California. We believe that this is a blatant violation of the public trust and an egregious example of how media consolidation can lead to partisan, political control of the airwaves.

When a broadcast network becomes the voice of a political party, especially prior to a major national election, the FCC must intervene. This is no longer journalism, but electioneering, and it should be illegal.

The airwaves are not a supermarket, in which everyone has an equal right to buy whatever products he likes. Pappas' recent remark that everyone is "free" to purchase air time means, in effect, that only the wealthy and powerful can control the media. This is profoundly undemocratic.

As the public agency charged with ensuring a free, fair, and democratic media, the FCC must guard against the concentration of power in the hands of organizations like Pappas. When they violate the principles of fair and open communication, the FCC has a duty to revoke their license.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
James and Suzanne Cowan
San Francisco, California